



NEWS



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Zermatt fire in Wrightwood 20 percent contained; evacuations lifted

Alex Groves, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: June 17, 2017, 12:58 PM



Firefighters work to put out the Zermatt fire Saturday afternoon in Wrightwood that forced the evacuation of a neighborhood. Photo by Sarah Alvarado

WRIGHTWOOD >> A 10.8-acre fire prompted road closures and an evacuation of several homes in Wrightwood on Saturday afternoon.

The fire was burning on Lone Pine Canyon Road in the San Gabriel Mountains, confirmed Ryan Vaccaro, a **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman.

As of 5 p.m., firefighters had the blaze, dubbed the Zermatt fire, 20 percent contained, according to Cal Fire Capt. Debbie Chapman, the public information officer in charge of the incident. The fire had charred 10.8 acres, she said.

Earlier in the day, the fire had been reported at 7 acres.

Vaccaro said firefighters from his agency would be working to mitigate threats to structures and assisting the Angeles National Forest.

Roughly five homes had been evacuated along Pacific Crest Drive between Zermatt Drive and Lone Pine Canyon Road, as well as for residents east of Pacific Crest Drive, said Vaccaro and Angeles National Forest spokesman Nathan Judy.

The evacuation was lifted about 5 p.m., Chapman said.

Judy says crews were able to clear brush surrounding the fire to stop its spread and that it appeared they had a handle on it. No homes were damaged.

Roads in the immediate area were closed as firefighters battled the blaze. They have since opened.

Saturday afternoon, about 200 personnel were on scene, including 25 fire engines, five hand crews and two helicopters, said Cal Fire Capt. Chapman.

Several agencies responded to the blaze, Chapman said. They were: the U.S. Forest Service, Angeles National Forest, the San Bernardino County Fire Department, Cal Fire, the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

It's unclear how the fire started.

This story is developing. Check back for details.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170617/zermatt-fire-in-wrightwood-20-percent-contained-evacuations-lifted>

UPDATE: Evacuation orders lifted for Zermatt Fire in Wrightwood as crews increase containment

Charity Lindsey, Daily Press
Posted: June 17, 2017, 1:11 PM



A vegetation fire was threatening structures Saturday afternoon as firefighters battled the blaze near Zermatt and Pacific Crest drives in Wrightwood, authorities said. [Photo submitted by Diane Peacock]

WRIGHTWOOD — A fire broke out in a residential area of Wrightwood Saturday afternoon and forced mandatory evacuations as firefighters battled the blaze, according to authorities.

Dubbed Zermatt, the vegetation fire started near Zermatt and Pacific Crest drives, according to **San Bernardino County Fire Department** officials.

At 5:15 p.m., Angeles National Forest posted on its official Twitter account that crews had reached 20 percent containment on the 10-acre fire and were “improving containment lines and mopping up.”

Mandatory evacuations were enforced between Zermatt Drive and Lone Pine Canyon Road, and for residents east of Pacific Crest Drive; however, they were lifted by 5:33 p.m., according to San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department spokesperson Cindy Bachman.

Between 30 and 35 homes were impacted, Bachman said on her official Twitter account.

County firefighters are assisting the Angeles National Forest in battling the fire, with several air tankers dropping retardant.

Per scanner traffic, the Zermatt Fire was moving at a moderate speed around 12:30 p.m.

The American Red Cross posted on its official Twitter account Saturday afternoon that an evacuation center had been opened at Serrano High School at 9292 Sheep Creek Road for victims of the Zermatt Fire. Evacuation centers will close at 6 p.m., according to Bachman.

This story is developing and more information will be updated as it is received.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170617/update-evacuation-orders-lifted-for-zermatt-fire-in-wrightwood-as-crews-increase-containment>

Fire in Wrightwood Area Prompts Mandatory Evacuations

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: June 17, 2017



Photo: Ted Ramirez

WRIGHTWOOD, Calif. (VVNG.com) Mandatory evacuations were ordered after a fire, which is dubbed the Zermatt Fire, broke out Saturday afternoon.

The fire was reported just after 12 pm near Zermatt and Pacific Drives and immediately began threatening nearby structures.

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** is assisting the National Angeles Forest and Cal Fire with structure protection.

Two Strike Teams have been requested and helicopters are aggressively dropping water on the fire.

PA announcements are being conducted to inform the residents to leave the area just east Pacific Crest Drive.

Highway 2 is closed at Wright Mountain Road and no entry is allowed at this time, said Sheriff's Spokeswoman Cindy Bachman.

This is a developing story, please check back for updates.

UPDATE @3pm: The Zermatt fire is holding at 7 acres and the forward rate of progression has been stopped. According to a tweet from the Angeles National Forest.

CORRECTION: The fire was initially reported to be 20-25 acres in size. That fire was determined to be a separate blaze in Apple Valley.

<http://www.vvng.com/fire-wrightwood-area-prompts-mandatory-evacuations/>

Man airlifted after being struck by vehicle Friday

Daily Press

Posted: June 16, 2017, 12:01 AM

HESPERIA — A man was airlifted to a trauma center after being struck by a vehicle in a crash late Friday, authorities said.

Authorities were dispatched to the intersection of Maple and Rancho roads at 8:37 p.m. Friday following reports of a vehicle-versus-pedestrian crash in the area.

Specifics on the crash are still scarce, but **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Ryan Vaccaro said the man suffered “serious injuries” from the impact. An airship was requested and he was transported to Loma Linda University Medical Center for treatment.

No other injuries have been reported. The driver of the vehicle remained on scene after the crash, according to scanner traffic, but no other details were available late Friday.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170616/man-airlifted-after-being-struck-by-vehicle-friday>

Seneca Road blaze quickly doused Friday

Daily Press

Posted: June 16, 2017, 12:01 AM

VICTORVILLE — Firefighters quickly stamped out a blaze in a desert field near a local apartment complex late Friday, according to scanner traffic.

Reports of a vegetation fire in the 14700 block of Seneca Road were dispatched just after 8:30 p.m. Scanner traffic reported that there were “five spots of vegetation burning” in a desert field near an apartment complex at the intersection of Seneca and Del Gado roads.

Firefighters made quick work of the blaze, with scanner traffic reporting the fire burned through one acre before containment just before 9 p.m. No injuries have yet been reported and the blaze didn’t threaten nearby structures.

However, scanner traffic reported that San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department officials were searching for a suspect who was reportedly “setting multiple small fires” in the area.

It’s unclear if any suspect was ultimately found, and messages left with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** and the Victorville Sheriff’s station weren’t immediately returned Friday.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170616/seneca-road-blaze-quickly-doused-friday>

Firefighters knock down blaze in home despite ‘extreme heat conditions’

County Fire officials said firefighters were hampered by “extreme heat,” but no nearby structures or vegetation threatened

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: June 16, 2017, 2:27 PM



San Bernardino County firefighters vent the roof as flames billow out of a home off Shivers Street in Victorville on Friday. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

VICTORVILLE — Despite sizzling temperatures, firefighters were able to get a handle on a blaze that ripped through a home Friday afternoon.

San Bernardino County Fire Department officials responded to reports of a fire at a home in the 16800 block of Shivers Street, near Dean Avenue, at 12:35 p.m. County Fire Battalion Chief Josh Sprague said firefighters arrived and found the home “heavily involved” with flames.

Several neighbors on scene told the Daily Press they could see and smell smoke just before the blaze erupted. County Fire responded with several personnel, including two battalion chiefs, four medic engines, two truck companies and a fire investigator.

After conducting an “aggressive” search of the home to confirm no one was inside, firefighters began combating the blaze. Sprague said several firefighters opened up the roof of the home to allow for ventilation. Firefighters could be seen climbing up to the roof to put out the flames.

“We’ve been hampered with our progress in containing the fire because of the extreme heat conditions today,” Sprague said. “However, the fire has been contained to the structure. There are no exposures and no nearby structures threatened.”

County Fire officials reported on Twitter that the fire was out as of 1:42 p.m. Friday. Sprague said crews were expected to remain on scene for at least another hour for cleanup.

There was no one at the home when the blaze erupted, Sprague said, and no injuries were reported. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170616/firefighters-knock-down-blaze-in-home-despite-extreme-heat-conditions>

Local firefighter coming full circle

As team of firefighters prepares for race, one uses it as an opportunity to give back

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: June 16, 2017, 6:02 PM



San Bernardino County Fire Department engineer/paramedic Ricky Arnold is shown with his 1-year-old son, Beckam, and 4-year-old daughter Paisley. The Apple Valley firefighter is participating in the Race Across America to raise funds for the Fire Family Foundation, as well as give back to the High Desert community for its support when Paisley needed a heart transplant in 2013. [Courtesy of Ricky Arnold]

APPLE VALLEY — For Ricky Arnold, participating in the race of a lifetime gives him the chance to raise awareness for an important cause — while also giving back to the High Desert community.

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** engineer/paramedic is part of the four-man Team Fire Velo/Norton Strong, a charity-based cycling team with four County Fire firefighters currently participating in the Race Across America 2017.

Arnold, along with Captain Tim Goforth, Engineer Travis Grapes, and Firefighter/Paramedic Sean Jackson, is riding across the country to raise awareness of the Fire Family Foundation, a nonprofit organization that offers financial assistance to firefighters, their families and fire victims in need.

The group also aims to shine a light on the prevalence of cancer among firefighters. Jackson said firefighters have a much higher risk of getting some form of cancer in their lifetime. With two of the department's own currently battling the disease, the team's motivation to push for the cause is sky-high.

Yet for Arnold, there's an additional motivation near and dear to his heart — his four-year-old daughter Paisley. The little girl underwent a heart transplant when she was only 5 months old, after being hospitalized for a month after a routine checkup.

“She wasn't eating right, wasn't gaining weight.... We just knew something wasn't right,” the firefighter, who lives in Apple Valley, said. “We found out she had an enlarged heart, and the only way to fix it was through a heart transplant. It was pretty scary.”

The diagnosis set off a cycle of doctors' appointments, examinations and trips to the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, where Paisley received treatment and her heart transplant.

“While we were going through that, we were staying at an apartment in Loma Linda to keep Paisley closer to the hospital,” Arnold said. “As you can imagine, with paying for medical costs, in addition to paying your mortgage or other bills, everything was super difficult.”

Fortunately for the Arnolds, the Fire Family Foundation — and the High Desert community — came out in droves to show their support.

After various news outlets, including this newspaper, published stories about Paisley’s plight, the Arnolds found themselves overrun by a wave of support from the the local firefighting and High Desert community. Donations gathered at several local events and assistance of the Foundation allowed the Arnolds to stay afloat and focus on their daughter’s recovery.

Paisley is now “doing great and (is) as healthy as can be,” Arnold said.

“We go in every few months for a checkup and she takes anti-rejection medication, but other than that, she’s a very active, fun-loving girl with no issues,” Arnold said.

The experience has pushed Arnold, an experienced cyclist, to participate in this year’s race and gain donations for the Foundation.

“It comes full circle — I’m able to give back to the Fire Family Foundation and the High Desert community for everything they gave us,” Arnold said.

Team Fire Velo/Norton Strong will participate in the Race Across America on Saturday. The 3,089-mile race begins in Oceanside and ends in Annapolis approximately one week later.

Visit the team’s Facebook page, “Team Fire Velo Norton Strong,” for live updates on the race and further information on the Race Across America.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170616/local-firefighter-coming-full-circle>

Power outage leads to illegal pot grow

San Bernardino County Sheriff via Highland News

Posted: June 17, 2017, 7:43 AM

Deputies from the Morongo Basin Sheriff’s Station responded to 3662 Warren Vista Ave. in Yucca Valley to assist the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** personnel that responded to a report of a downed power line at the residence.

Members of the fire department requested the assistance from the Sheriff’s Department after they discovered the residence was most likely a marijuana grow house and the power line failed because of the power overload from the marijuana growing equipment being used inside the residence.

The Sheriff’s Marijuana Enforcement Team responded to the location and served a search warrant at the location. Investigators found a large-scale indoor marijuana grow inside the house. Over 400 marijuana plants, in various stages of growth, were found inside the residence. The grow operation used advanced lighting, air conditioning, fans, exhaust blowers and an air-filtering system to control the climate inside the house as well as the odor coming from the residence.

Additionally, the evidence gathered during the investigation suggests that the suspect was not in compliance with California medical marijuana laws and local ordinances. The County of San Bernardino has an ordinance prohibiting Commercial Cannabis Activity within the unincorporated areas of the county.

The suspect, Thomas Gordon, 21, of Yucca Valley was contacted inside the residence by investigators. He was arrested without incident and was later booked at the Morongo Basin jail facility for cultivating marijuana. His bail is set at \$5,000.

Investigators are in the process of identifying additional suspects involved in this investigation. Once they are identified, the investigation will be completed and sent to the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office for a criminal complaint against them.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation or is urged to contact the Sheriff's Gangs/Narcotics Division at (909)387-8400. Callers wishing to remain anonymous are urged to call the We-tip Hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME (27463) or you may leave information on the We-Tip Hotline at www.wetip.com.

http://www.highlandnews.net/news/crime_and_fire/power-outage-leads-to-illegal-pot-grow/article_53cc1a28-536b-11e7-b051-07ad431368ed.html

Woman killed after being struck by several vehicles in Victorville

Charity Lindsey, Daily Press

Posted: June 17, 2017, 11:22 AM



A pedestrian struck by several vehicles on Hesperia and Comanche roads around 11 p.m. Friday was later pronounced dead, authorities said. [Submitted photo]

VICTORVILLE — A woman who was run over by several vehicles on Hesperia Road was later pronounced dead Friday night, authorities said.

After a vehicle struck the pedestrian on Hesperia and Comanche roads around 11 p.m. Friday, she was then run over by several vehicles, **San Bernardino County Fire Department** officials said.

The woman was transported to Desert Valley Hospital by ambulance and later pronounced dead, according to authorities.

Hesperia Road was closed between Silica and Nisqualli Roads to block traffic during the investigation Friday night.

The woman's identity will be released after she has been identified and her family has been notified of the death, authorities said.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170617/woman-killed-after-being-struck-by-several-vehicles-in-victorville>

Two pedestrians struck by vehicles on Rancho Road Friday night

Hesperia Star

Posted: June 17, 2017, 8:07 PM

HESPERIA — Two pedestrians were struck by vehicles on Rancho Road in two separate crashes on Friday night, according to authorities.

The crashes both occurred late Friday night, one at the intersection of Maple Avenue and Rancho and the other at Lassen Road and Rancho, according to **San Bernardino County Fire Department** officials.

A man was airlifted to Loma Linda University Medical Center with “major injuries” after being struck by a vehicle on Maple Avenue around 8:30 p.m. Friday, County Fire spokesman Ryan Vaccaro said.

On Lassen Road, a man on a bicycle was hit by a car, and was airlifted to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center for treatment of his injuries. No further information was available as of Saturday afternoon.

<http://www.hesperia.com/news/20170617/two-pedestrians-struck-by-vehicles-on-rancho-road-friday-night>

Young San Bernardino Man Loses Life After ATV Crash at El Mirage OHV Area

24/7 Headline News

Posted: June 18, 2017

ADELANTO – A 22-year-old San Bernardino man lost his life after crashing an ATV on Saturday night. Just before 10:00 p.m. deputies from the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department, the California Highway Patrol and paramedics from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded to a single ATV collision at the El Mirage Off-Highway Vehicle area in Adelanto.

Jesus Adagar suffered traumatic injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene at 10:26 p.m. The collision remains under investigation by the California Highway Patrol.

<https://247headline.com/young-san-bernardino-man-loses-life-after-atv-crash-at-el-mirage-ohv-area/>

Man Hit by Train in Hesperia Sunday Morning Survives

VVNG Staff

Posted: June 18, 2017



(Gabriel D Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) A man who was struck by a train early Sunday morning is expected to survive, Sheriff officials said.

At around 4:00 am, Deputies from the Hesperia station and Firefighters from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded to a call referencing a pedestrian hit by a train.

“I was taking my dog to the backyard to go potty, and I heard 3 guys voices yelling out for Tony.

Shortly thereafter I hear a freight train that travels Hesperia Rd. Then I heard them scream,” said Debbie Lauterhahn.

When emergency personnel responded to the area of Hesperia Road and Spruce Street, they located the pedestrian that was hit by a train.

“The adult male was struck by the train and was alert and talking to deputies. He was transported to ARMC and is expected to survive,” Sheriff’s Spokeswoman Cindy Bachman told Victor Valley News.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department is investigating the incident.

<http://www.vvng.com/man-hit-train-hesperia-sunday-morning-survives/>

Aviation crews rescue hiker in Aztec Falls area

SBSD Aviation via Highland News

Posted: June 19, 2017, 7:18 AM

On Sunday, June 18, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Aviation was requested by **San Bernardino County Fire** Dispatch to respond to the Aztec Falls area for a possible hoist rescue of a fall victim. The victim, identified as Kevin Gaylord, 23, of Los Angeles, was hiking through steep terrain when he fell and sustained non-life threatening injuries and could not hike out of the area on his own.

The sheriff's patrol helicopter (40King4) quickly responded to the area, located the victim and confirmed a hoist rescue would be required due to the steep and nearly inaccessible terrain.

Sheriff's Air Rescue 306 responded to the scene and lowered an Air Medic approximately 140 feet down to the Gaylord. Gaylord was placed into a rescue harness hoisted up to the helicopter and flown to Mountain's Community Hospital for treatment of his injuries.

40King4 Crew:

Pilot: Deputy Paul Kowalski

Flight Officer: Deputy Derrick Alatorre

Air Rescue 306 Crew:

Pilot: Corporal Jon Anderson

Crew Chief: Deputy Chris Mejia

EMT: Corporal John Scalise

Medic: Reserve Deputy Gordon Yee

http://www.highlandnews.net/news/public_safety/aviation-crews-rescue-hiker-in-aztec-falls-area/article_31af4a06-54fa-11e7-a851-2ba5911b1039.html

MAC Board meets with developers

Lorrie Steely / For the Leader, Daily Press

Posted: June 19, 2017, 8:57 AM

The June meeting of the Lucerne Valley/Johnson Valley Municipal Advisory Council was held Thursday at the Community Center. With more renewable energy projects looming on the horizon, the MAC discussion immediately turned to the topic. The Mac Chair and members of the Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association (LVEDA) recently met with the developers of the 8 Minute Generation Project, whose Conditional Use Permit application is under consideration by the San Bernardino County Land Use Department.

Conclusion of the MAC members: The project is yet another case of wrong technology in the wrong place. Lucerne Valley continues to be in the crosshairs for utility-scale generation projects and until the county implements the Renewable Energy Conservation Element to help direct the location of these projects, the battle will continue for locals.

Tony Malone was inspired to action after attending the recent Scoping Meeting for the Nextera Ord Mountain Generation Project. This is a 60-megawatt project that has its sites on the northeastern section of the

community and proposes to develop 484 acres just east of Highway 247, north of Haynes Road, which places this project within a half-mile of over 30 occupied residences.

The dust that will develop as a result of this monster project will be almost impossible to mitigate, experts say. Malone proposes that the community reach out to the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District to monitor the conditions, and establish a current baseline of air quality for the area.

Unfortunately, projects of the past, especially the large Camp Rock Road Projects, have been shining examples of what not to do, and the community is hoping to be able to prevent more of the same. Residents are planning to meet with MDAQMD staff to discuss concerns and possible solutions.

San Bernardino County Fire and Cal Fire made their regular updates, reporting increased fire activities and warning of the increased fire danger as the weather gets hot and vegetation becomes excessively dry. Be aware that embers can blow for 1 to 2 miles in desert conditions. Residents are urged to be responsible and keep a defensible space around their homes and property.

CSA 29 Interim Division Manager Reese Troublefield reported the popular Movies in the Park will begin Saturday, June 24th. The events are free to the public. The year's biggest event, the July 4th Fireworks Show, is on for 2017! The event must be paid for completely with funds raised for the event, but local contributors have stepped up to make it happen again this year.

Thanks are due the major sponsors: Mitsubishi, Nextera and Omya. Earlier this month when it looked like event funds would fall short, Omya stepped up and made another donation to meet the final need of \$3,000 so the event is a go!

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170619/mac-board-meets-with-developers>

Combative Suspect Accused of Arson Damages Patrol Unit

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: June 19, 2017



A man suspected of arson was arrested on several charges Sunday evening in Hesperia. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) A man accused of arson became combative and damaged a patrol unit after being detained Sunday afternoon.

At 6:46 pm, firefighters from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded to a small brush fire on Main Street just east of Highway 395 in Hesperia.

Upon arrival, firefighters were informed by several witnesses that a White male adult started the fire and then put it out moments later.

The suspect began acting erratically and running through the street when witnesses began notifying firefighters of the suspected crime.

Deputy E. Demara with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department arrived on scene and detained the suspect and placed him in the back of her patrol unit.

The suspect then became combative inside the back of the car and eventually damaged the door of the patrol unit.

The man was arrested on several charges which included suspicion of being under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, arson, and vandalism.

The identity of the suspect was not immediately available Saturday evening.

<http://www.vvng.com/combative-suspect-accused-arson-damages-patrol-unit/>